

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF JODY NAZARCHYK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing and honor the wonderful life of Waterford, Connecticut Selectwoman Jody Nazarchyk. Jody was a tireless public servant and community activist who showed unrivaled dedication to the well-being of her family and her town. The outpouring of praise and love for her from all corners of Waterford after news of her loss was a powerful statement of the impact she made on generations of town residents, young and old.

Born on January 15, 1952, to Josephine and John DeAngelis, Jody grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut. She attended St. Timothy's grade school and Mount St. Joseph's Academy who imbued in her a deep religious faith and spirituality. I was her classmate at St. Timothy's and she stood out, even at a young age, as a caring, kind person who put others ahead of herself. Beginning with her time supporting the Hartford Catholic Youth Organization alongside her father, the spirit of volunteerism was instilled within Jody throughout her family upbringing. From coaching both boys' baseball and girls' cheerleading, to running the school newspaper and serving as president of her class and captain of the cheer team, her record of volunteer service started early and continued unabated until the end of her life.

Early in her 20s, Jody moved to Waterford upon the completion of her education. There, she was closer to her extended family and, as fate would have it, her life soulmate, Rich Nazarchyk whom she married and raised four wonderful children. This move was not only a pivotal event for her personally, but also it turned out a decisive boon for the Town of Waterford.

Jody, who came to be known as both the "conscience of Waterford" and "Waterford's mom," always stood up for her community. This first became apparent in 1991 when she helped found the town's youth service bureau. In fact, advocating for the town's children was a central tenant to her work. In 2012, for example, when funding for freshman high school sports were threatened, Jody stood for her community, protected those programs from being cut, and ensured her town's youth had early access to athletic development. As a result, it was Jody who had sown seeds of town pride and indirectly supported Waterford gaining eight state championships since that year. It is no wonder that she is honored in the Waterford Sports Hall of Fame.

Outside of youth athletics, Jody also recognized the importance of a formational education and made sure to support students in the classroom. For 25 years, she served as a member of the Waterford Board of Education, where she was a tireless advocate for the

wellbeing of students, teachers, and parents. Her service culminated in her election to the position of Chair of the Board, where she was able to more effectively bridge the interests of students and parents alike. As a testament to her work, she was recognized as a Champion for Children by the town in 2014.

Jody's advocacy stretched beyond Waterford's borders and was felt across the entire region. She was especially dedicated to serving those who risked the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country. With this in mind, Jody positioned herself into an instrumental role in ensuring Southeast Connecticut veterans were recognized and cared for. A founding member of the Waterford coffee house. Jody would take care of local veterans—from Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners to ensuring they receive the appreciation they deserve.

Jody was instrumental in shaping Waterford into the haven for families that it is today. She taught CCD at St. Paul's, served on the Southwest Elementary and Clark Lane Parent Teacher Organizations, and was a Little League Coach. She also helped inspire the founding of Camp Dash, a full day summer camp for children who have working parents. She was most recently elected to the Board of Selectmen in 2019, where she fought for the interests of her neighbors through to her final days.

Mr. Speaker, after losing contact with Jody for decades after we went separate paths from St. Timothy's, it was a great joy for me to reconnect with her in the public affairs and events in Waterford. I enjoyed seeing her more recently during the veteran's coffee houses in town, where she, of course, helped serve breakfast, organize the room and schedule of activities. At its latest coffee house gathering a few days ago, the packed room of veterans had a solemn moment of silence in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, Jody Nazarchyk will be remembered as a positive, irrepressible force for the Town of Waterford. Although the void left by her sudden passing will be impossible to fill, we can find solace in the fact that her legacy of compassionate, selfless service will now be carried on by the thousands she touched throughout her life. She is specifically survived by her husband of 43 years, Rick Nazarchyk; children, Richard, Jodie, Justin, Jamie; and their children; as well as her brother and sister-in-law, Jordy and Patty DeAngelis. We should all look to Jody's example to ensure her torch of exemplary citizenship does not extinguish. To this end, I ask my colleagues to join me and the citizens of Waterford in honoring Jody's life and work.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JIM LANGAN

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jim Langan, a longtime friend who passed away on February 15 of this year.

Jim was a friend to all who knew him, and will long be remembered for his love of life. He had a brilliant mind, a quick wit, and a powerful pen. He was a steward of that most sacred first amendment and understood the value of public service.

I will forever be grateful for our friendship, dialogue, and debate. He enriched the life of our community and lives of those who live here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Jim Langan. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.

HONORING MR. JIM SPERING ON HIS 36 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend and incredible public servant, Mr. Jim Sperring upon his retirement from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Throughout his career in public service, Mr. Sperring diligently advocated for the communities of Solano County and Suisun City, working to bolster local infrastructure and address land-use issues in the area through investments in critical projects.

Mr. Sperring's service to the Solano community spans over three decades, including 16 years as Solano County Supervisor and 20 years as Suisun City Mayor. In each of these positions, Mr. Sperring never lost sight of his responsibility to the citizens of Suisun City and Solano County, measuring success in his role by the lives improved through service and policy.

During his tenure as Solano County Supervisor, Mr. Sperring prioritized important investments in transportation infrastructure, most recently reflected in the opening of the full Highway 12 connector lanes into Solano County. Additionally, he was instrumental in the formation of the Solano Transportation Authority and the Amtrak Capitol Corridor intercity rail service, linking Sacramento and the Bay Area. His efforts not only modernized his community's infrastructure, making it safer and more efficient, but also improved the quality of life for Solano County residents.

In addition to his tireless work to improve Solano's transit systems, Mr. Sperring also

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

spearheaded environmental land-use projects to revitalize Suisun City. As chair of the City of Suisun's Redevelopment Agency, he led efforts to reinvigorate the Suisun City Waterfront and better its integration into the community. His leadership in land-use planning has undeniably enhanced the community and ushered Suisun City into a new era of prosperity.

While his presence on the Board of Supervisors will surely be missed, Mr. Sperring's 36 years of service have reflected the very best of public office and will continue to improve the lives of citizens for many years to come. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for Mr. Sperring's dedication and commitment to public service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING REGINA BIANUCCI RUS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Regina Bianucci Rus who is being honored as Citizen of the Year by the City of Novato for her exemplary public service.

A 25-year resident of Novato, Ms. Rus dedicated more than two decades of community service to the city through numerous and varied roles. As a business owner and accounting expert, Ms. Rus has shared her professional and leadership skills with the community, including as a board member and president of Novato Human Needs, a long-standing member of the Novato Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Novato Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, and a volunteer with the League of Women Voters of Marin County.

Her volunteer service varied from providing professional expertise and board leadership, to rolling up her sleeves to work on the annual July Fourth Buckaroo Breakfast, and volunteering at the Marin Food Bank. She also played a critical role in supporting the efforts to restore the Novato Theater.

Ms. Rus's commitment to improving quality education is also extensive. She was a founding board member, treasurer, and president of School Fuel, president of San Marin High School's Parent Teacher Association, a math tutor for elementary students, and a high school guest speaker on financial literacy.

She is also an active member of the Presbyterian Church of Novato. She was a member of the Finance and Administration Committee, and currently serves as an Elder of the Mission Committee. Through her work with the church, she has volunteered on trips to Juarez, Mexico to build homes for families-in-need; coordinated COVID-19 vaccination clinics in partnership with Marin County; and established the Snack Sack program, providing Marin County Mobile Shower recipients with lunches prepared by church members.

For her substantial volunteer service, Ms. Rus has been honored with numerous accolades, including the Novato Chamber of Commerce 2011 Women in Business Leadership Award and the California State PTA 2020 Golden Oak Service Award. Known for her grace, intelligence, and innovative manner, she is respected for always prioritizing the betterment of her community.

In her personal time, Ms. Rus is a musician and athlete. Since 2012, she has performed with the Las Gallinas Sanitary District Non-Marching Band. And, she has finished the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon 25 times and since assumed the role of volunteer race director.

Ms. Rus's commitment to the City of Novato has been and continues to be significant and enduring. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Ms. Rus for her enduring public service, and in extending to her congratulations for being honored as the City of Novato's Citizen of the Year.

REMEMBERING RICHARD VALLE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representatives BARBARA LEE, MARK DESAULNIER, and RO KHANNA to recognize the life of Alameda County Board Supervisor Richard Valle on the occasion of his passing on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.

Richard was born and raised in Union City and attended schools in New Haven Unified School District. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a medic and served in the Vietnam War in 1970. Upon his return, Richard attended Chabot College and California State University, East Bay to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Public Administration.

In 1980 Richard founded Tri-City Economic Development Corporation, more commonly known as TriCED Community Recycling, which provides employment opportunities and job training for underprivileged youth. As President and CEO of Tri-CED, Richard oversaw the organization's growth into the largest nonprofit recycling organization in California.

Richard began his career in public service in 1997 when he was first elected as Union City councilmember, where he served for 13 years until 2010. In 2012, Richard was appointed and subsequently re-elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to represent District 2, which includes Hayward, Union City, Newark, and portions of Fremont.

During his 11-year tenure, Richard was a tireless advocate for sustainability, safety-net services, and community programs for youth. Supervisor Valle held annual volunteer appreciation events, the Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll event to promote walkable neighborhoods and helped create Science in the Park to promote STEM-focused youth programs. He served on the Board of St. Rose Hospital and was vice-chair of the statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling.

Richard was a pillar of the Tri-City community for over two decades. Despite his two-year battle with prostate cancer, Richard remained dedicated to helping others. Alameda County has suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of this committed public servant. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Barbara, his son, Andrew, his daughter, Monica, and his three grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
DANIEL MORENO LOFTON

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Daniel Moreno Lofton and share this dedication by this family.

Daniel was born into this world on October 16, 1946, in Tucson, Arizona, to Peter Lofton and Jane Moreno. He was the eldest of his siblings. Daniel was presented to the Lord at the First Apostolic Church of Tucson by Pastor Reyes Coronado. At the young age of 19, Daniel made the life-changing decision to follow Jesus. He was baptized by Pastor Joe Fregoso at the First Apostolic Church of Tucson.

Soon after, he was drafted by the United States Army and served as Combat Medic in the Vietnam War from September 1967 through September 1969. As a Combat Medic, he was at the frontlines, ready to render life-saving aid to the wounded and, in other cases, recover the remains of those soldiers lost and ensure that no man was left behind. During his service, he received the following medals, badges, and commendations: National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Air Medal; Bronze Star Medal; Combat Medical Badge; and Army Commendation Medal. When he did speak about his personal experiences in the war, it was to acknowledge how the hand of God was upon his life and spared him from bullets as they grazed by the sides of his face and ears while he rendered aid or how he was kept safe as he traversed minefields to get to the wounded. He was always grateful to have made it back with no physical injuries and always made it a point of importance in his life to acknowledge the service of his fellow veterans and the sacrifice of those that did not make it back. Daniel continued serving as an employee of the Veterans Administration Hospital for 35 years until he retired.

In 1969, Daniel met Mireya Anna Luisa Martinez at the First Apostolic Church in Tucson while she was visiting her cousin Pastor Gilbert Samano, Sr., and his family. As the friendship and love grew, they decided to marry, and on April 3, 1971, in the presence of their family and friends, they exchanged their vows and were married by Pastor Pablo Rodriguez at the First Apostolic Church of Compton, CA. Daniel and Mireya were blessed with two children, Ann Marie Lofton and Daniel Lofton, Jr.

Those close to Daniel knew him for his thoughtful and caring personality. His kindness and unwavering willingness to serve others were demonstrated through his service as an ordained minister in the Apostolic Assembly. During his tenure, he served in many leadership roles in the men's auxiliary at the district, sector, and local levels. In addition, he was assistant pastor both in San Gabriel and Whittier, CA. His ministry was characterized by visiting and praying for the sick and elderly, utilizing the gift and calling the Lord had placed upon him. He had a heart for those in need, and often, he could be found providing a meal and a word of encouragement to brighten someone's day. Other times he would ask his